



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

8 VAC 20-30 – Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs Department of Education April 30, 2004

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 21 (02). Section 2.2-4007.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

The Board of Education (board) proposes to create an adult high school diploma for: 1) individuals who were not required to earn verified credit at the time they entered the ninth grade, but who meet the credit requirements that were in place at the time they entered the ninth grade, and 2) individuals who successfully complete the External Diploma Program (EDP). Individuals who were not required to earn verified credit at the time they entered the ninth grade or who have successfully completed the EDP will no longer be eligible for a standard or advanced diploma unless they meet all credit requirements defined by the current Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (including verified credit) at the time that they expect to graduate.

Estimated Economic Impact

Under the current regulations, an adult may earn a standard diploma by satisfying the requirements that were in place at the time he first entered ninth grade, or by successfully

completing the EDP. This is misleading for the public, particularly since going forward individuals who were not required to earn verified credit (pass Standards of Learning (SOL) exams) at the time they entered the ninth grade, but who meet the credit requirements that were in place at the time they entered the ninth grade, would be awarded the same diploma as students who must earn verified credit. The board proposes to create an adult high school diploma for those adults who have met the credit requirements that were in place at the time they entered the ninth grade or who have successfully completing the EDP, but who have not taken and passed at least six SOL exams (the verified credit requirement). The board's proposal is beneficial to the public because: 1) it continues to enable individuals who were not required to earn verified credit at the time they entered the ninth grade, but who meet the credit requirements that were in place at the time they entered the ninth grade, to earn a high school diploma, and 2) the public is not misled into believing that these individuals have met the same standard as current and future high school students, i.e., earned sufficient verified credit to earn a standard diploma.

Separate from these proposed regulations, the board has created the General Achievement Diploma (GAD) for students who have completed all requirements for graduation other than verified credit and obtain a passing score on the GED examination. Potentially, an adult student could choose to satisfy all of the current requirements for a high school diploma other than the verified credits, pass the GED, and obtain the GAD. By creating separate names (standard, adult, GAD) for these three separate routes to obtaining a high school diploma, the public is better informed regarding what was accomplished to obtain the designation.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed amendments affect the 131 school divisions in the Commonwealth, individuals seeking a high school diploma, and employers or other entities who wish to have a better understanding of what diploma holders have accomplished to earn their degree. During the 2002-2003 school year, 284 adult Virginians in localities other than Fairfax earned a standard high school diploma by satisfying graduation requirements that existed when they were in ninth grade.¹ The Department of Education estimates that another 150 adult students in Fairfax earned a standard high school diploma by satisfying graduation requirements that existed when they were in ninth grade. In addition, 50 students earned a standard high school diploma by

¹ Source: Department of Education

completing the EDP during 2002-2003. Under the proposed regulations, the diploma earned by all these students will be called an adult high school diploma.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed regulations affect all Virginia localities.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendments are unlikely to have a significant impact on employment.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed amendments are unlikely to have a significant impact on the use and value of private property.